

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 29

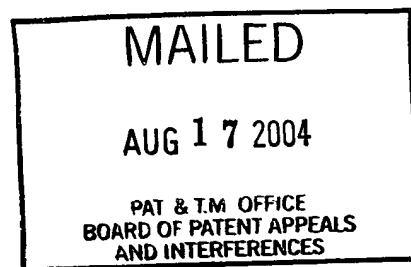
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ex parte PAUL E. MASSOD

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Appeal No. 2004-0023  
Application 09/334,574  
\_\_\_\_\_

ON BRIEF  
\_\_\_\_\_



Before JERRY SMITH, RUGGIERO, and MACDONALD, Administrative Patent Judges.

RUGGIERO, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on the appeal from the final rejection of claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-36, which are all of the claims pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 17 have been canceled. An amendment filed September 23, 2002 after final rejection was denied entry by the Examiner.

The claimed invention relates to inventory management including the verification that articles, which have been physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order. The verification operation includes the scanning of unique identifier codes on tags associated with the articles to determine that the articles belong in the physically grouped order. A positive indication is provided to an operator if the scanned unique code does not correspond to an article that properly belongs in the physically grouped order.

Representative claim 1 is reproduced as follows:

1. A method of inventory management comprises:

verifying that articles, which were physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order:

examining codes on tags by scanning unique identifier codes on the tags, each tag associated with one article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the grouped order;

positively indicating to an operator if the scanned unique sequential code does not correspond to an item that belongs in the grouped order.

The Examiner relies on the following prior art:

Amacher et al. (Amacher)	4,716,281	Dec. 29, 1987
Markman	5,794,213	Aug. 11, 1998

Claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-36, all of the appealed claims, stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As evidence of obviousness, the Examiner offers Markman alone with respect to claims 1-4, 6-16, 18-27, and 34-36, and adds Amacher to Markman with respect to claims 28-33.

Rather than reiterate the arguments of Appellant and the Examiner, reference is made to the Brief (Paper No. 26) and the Answer (Paper No. 27) for the respective details.

#### OPINION

We have carefully considered the subject matter on appeal, the rejection advanced by the Examiner and the evidence of obviousness relied upon by the Examiner as support for the rejection. We have, likewise, reviewed and taken into consideration, in reaching our decision, Appellant's arguments set forth in the Brief along with the Examiner's rationale in support of the rejection and arguments in rebuttal set forth in the Examiner's Answer.

It is our view, after consideration of the record before us, that the evidence relied upon and the level of skill in the particular art would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art the invention as set forth in claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-36. Accordingly, we affirm.

Appellant's arguments in response to the Examiner's rejection of the appealed claims are organized according to a suggested grouping of claims indicated at page 7 of the Brief. We will consider the appealed claims separately only to the extent separate arguments for patentability are presented. Any dependent claim not separately argued will stand or fall with its base claim. Note In re King, 801 F.2d 1324, 1325, 231 USPQ 136, 137 (Fed. Cir. 1986); In re Sernaker, 702 F.2d 989, 991, 217 USPQ 1, 3 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Only those arguments actually made by Appellant have been considered in this decision. Arguments which Appellant could have made but chose not to make in the Brief have not been considered [see 37 CFR § 1.192(a)].

With respect to the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 1, the representative claim for Appellant's first suggested grouping (including claims 1, 2, 11-14, 23, 24, 34-36) based on the Markman reference, Appellant contends that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness since all of the claim limitations are not taught or suggested by the applied prior art. We do not find Appellant's arguments to be persuasive for the reasons which we set forth infra.

Initially, we find no error in the Examiner's analysis (Answer, pages 3 and 7) which, in our view, correctly establishes correspondence between the claimed physical grouping of articles and that disclosure of Markham (column 5, lines 23-47; column 10, line 66 through column 11, line 13) which describes the physical grouping of articles as presented by a customer of a dry cleaning establishment. We do not necessarily disagree with Appellant's assertion (Brief, page 10) that, unlike the disclosed verification method which operates on grouped articles to verify a correct grouping, Markman's system operates on ungrouped articles to assemble them in the correct grouping. It is the claimed invention, however, which is before us on appeal. It is apparent to us that, from Markman's disclosure, the verification of the correctness of the group assembling operation at the output side of the dry cleaning process relates to a physical grouping performed at the customer input side. We find no claim language which precludes the physical grouping from taking place at the input side of the dry cleaning process.

Further, notwithstanding Appellant's arguments (Brief, pages 9 and 10) to the contrary, our own independent review of Markman reveals that the described operation of the signal light indicators 92 associated with the storage locations 84 provides a

positive indication to an operator that a scanned item does not belong to a particular grouped order. Upon our review of Appellant's specification, we fail to find any definition of the term "positive" that is different from the ordinary meaning. We note that the definition most suitable for "positive" as set forth in Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary<sup>1</sup> is "... c: fully assured: CONFIDENT." It is apparent to us that, from the disclosure of Markman, when an operator performs a scanning operation while assembling items belonging to a customer's presented grouped order (as signified by the lighting of an indicator 92 above a first storage location associated with a particular grouped order), the lighting of an indicator 92 over a different location provides a positive indication to the operator that the scanned item does not belong in the first grouped order.

With the above discussion in mind, it is apparent to us that all of the elements recited in representative claim 1 are in fact present in the disclosure of Markman. A disclosure that anticipates under 35 U.S.C. § 102 also renders the claim unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103, for "anticipation is the epitome of obviousness." Jones v. Hardy, 727 F.2d 1524, 1529,

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<sup>1</sup> A copy is enclosed along with this decision.

220 USPQ 1021, 1025 (Fed. Cir. 1984). See also In re Fracalossi, 681 F.2d 792, 794, 215 USPQ 569, 571 (CCPA 1982); In re Pearson, 494 F.2d 1399, 1402, 181 USPQ 641, 644 (CCPA 1974). Accordingly, we sustain the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, based on Markman, of representative claim 1, as well as claims 2, 11-14, 23, 24, and 34-36 which Appellant has chosen to let stand or fall with claim 1, and claims 25 and 26 not separately argued by Appellant.

We also sustain the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, based on Markman, of representative dependent claim 3, as well as claims 10, 15, 22 which fall with claim 3 in accordance with Appellant's grouping. Appellant's argument in response (Brief, page 11) to the Examiner's rejection of claim 3 directs attention to the illustration in Figure 3 of Markman and asserts that, in contrast to the claimed invention, the bar codes 50 do not provide unique sequential identification since each group receives the same bar code. We do not find this argument to be persuasive. While we don't necessarily agree with the Examiner's proffered interpretation (Answer, page 3) of the term "sequential," there is no language in appealed claim 3 that requires sequential identification in the form of bar codes, rather, the claim requires only sequential identification in

"machine readable format". In our view, the sequential numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) appearing on tags 34 in Figure 3 of Markman are clearly capable of being read by a machine, i.e., they are machine-readable as claimed. We would also point out that the step of "scanning," the only positively recited method step in claim 3, is not required to be performed by machine.

Turning to a consideration of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, based on Markman, of representative claim 4 (and claims 6, 16, and 18 which fall with claim 4), and representative claim 7 (and claims 8, 9, 19, and 21 which fall with claim 7), we sustain this rejection as well. With the above discussion of the feature of "unique sequential identification" appearing in claim 3 in mind, it is our view that Markman's examination of the sequential codes on the tags 32 to determine whether articles are a part of a group (appealed claim 4) or correspond to a first item that belongs in a group (appealed claim 7) as discussed at column 8, lines 19-55 of Markman satisfies all of the claimed requirements.

We also sustain the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 27 which is directed to the feature of utilizing permanent labels on articles to determine the association with members of a group. We find no specific definition in



Appellant's specification of the term "permanent" that would distinguish over the permanence of labels attached to items, for example, by the heat sealing process discussed at column 7, line 31 of Markman. We also note that Markman, at column 11, lines 43-46, discusses the examination and association of permanent labels on articles with members of a particular group of articles.

Lastly, we also sustain the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of dependent claims 28-33 based on the combination of Markman and Amacher. With respect to Appellant's arguments in response, it is our view that the arguments unpersuasively focus on the individual differences between the limitations of claims 28-33 and the Markman and Amacher references. It is apparent, however, from the Examiner's line of reasoning in the Answer, that the basis for the obviousness rejection is the combination of Markman and Amacher. One cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 425, 208 USPQ 871, 881 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., Inc., 800 F.2d 1091, 1096, 231 USPQ 375, 380 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In other words, while Appellant contends (Brief, pages 12 and 13) that Amacher lacks a teaching of a verification process,

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it is our view that such "verification" feature is taught by Markman for all of the reasons discussed supra. Similarly, while Appellant contends that Markman lacks a teaching of indicating when a scanning process starts successfully, ends successfully, or ends unsuccessfully, this teaching is clearly provided by Amacher.

In summary, we have sustained the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of all of the claims on appeal. Therefore, the decision of the Examiner rejecting claims 1-4, 6-16, and 18-36 is affirmed.

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No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

AFFIRMED

*Jerry Smith*  
JERRY SMITH

JERRY SMITH  
Administrative Patent Judge

Joseph E. Ruggiero  
JOSEPH E. RUGGIERO

JOSEPH F. RUGGIERO  
Administrative Patent Judge

Allen MacDonald

ALLEN R. MACDONALD  
Administrative Patent Judge

BOARD OF PATENT  
APPEALS AND  
INTERFERENCES

JFR/dal

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FISH & RICHARDSON PC  
225 FRANKLIN ST  
BOSTON MA 02110

asp: one (as chlorophyll) or  
m and usu. exhibiting bio-

riticus, fr. Gk *porphyritic*,  
of or relating to porphyry  
in a relatively fine-grained

96): a more or less schis-  
hyru purple + E -opsin (as  
the retinal rods of freshwa-

-furie, fr. ML *porphyrum*,  
(thos), lit., stone like Tynan  
rock consisting of feldspar  
or purple groundmass ?

porpois, fr. ML *porpiscia*,  
row, FISH (14c) 1: any of  
genus *Phocaena*; esp: a  
(*Phocaena*) of the north At-  
ers) lqng 2: any of several

of *porrigere* to stretch out,  
at PORTEND, RIGHT (15c)

1 (ca. 1643): a soft food  
milk or water until thick  
ottinger, fr. AF *potage*, fr.  
1522): a low metal bowl

MF, fr. L *portus* — more at  
ride secure from storms  
ships may take on or dis-

orta passage, gate: akin to L  
ATE 2: a: an opening for  
seat, or valve face b: the  
way for the working fluid  
a place of access to a sys-  
limit light or air to lead  
4: a hole in an armored  
may be fired

oriorie (14c) 1: the man-  
ATE 3 3: the position in  
ward port arms  
e left — used chiefly as

left side of a ship or air-  
compare STARBOARD —

portified wine of rich taste  
wine made elsewhere  
MF, fr. LL *portabilis*, fr. L  
capable of being carried or  
BEARABLE — *port-a-bil-*  
port-a-blé, port-adv

n [ME, fr. MF, fr. *portier* to  
unsporing 2 *archaic*: the  
arrying of boats or goods  
around an obstacle (as a  
ch a transfer  
taged; *port-tag-ing* vi (1840)  
cover a portage  
ML *portale* city gate, *port-*  
— more at *PORT* (14c)  
ig one 2: the whole arch-  
cluding the doorways and  
trance to a bridge or tunnel  
anism; *specif*: the point at  
body

liver, fr. L, gate (1845)  
the underside of the liv-  
lating to, or being a *port-*

m of veins that begins at

ing to the time spent by  
to his employer's prop-  
pay  
ollects blood from one  
through capillaries; esp  
s and spleen to the liv-  
men-ti \-(\)he\ (fr. lit.)

port

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(14c): a grating of iron hung over the gateway of a fortified place and  
lowered between grooves to prevent passage

port de bras \pòrd-ə-brā\ n [F, lit., carriage of the arm] (1912): the  
technique and practice of arm movement in ballet

Port du Salut \pòrd-ə-sal-(yü), pòrd-, -sal-\ n [F *port-du-salut*, *port-*  
salut, fr. *Port du Salut*, Trappist abbey in northwest France] (1881): a  
pist monks in France — called also *Port Salut*

Porte \pòrt, -pòrt\ n [F, short for *Sublime Porte*, lit., sublime gate;  
fr. the gate of the sultan's palace where justice was administered] (15c)  
the government of the Ottoman empire

porte cochère \pòrt-kò-shè(ə)r, -pòrt-\ n [F *porte cochère*, lit., coach  
door] (1693) 1: a passageway through a building or screen wall de-  
signed to let vehicles pass from the street to an interior courtyard 2  
a: a roofed structure extending from the entrance of a building over an  
adjacent driveway and sheltering those getting in or out of vehicles  
portend \pòr-tend, -pòr- vi [ME *portenden*, fr. L *portendere*, fr. *por-*  
tendere (akin to *per* through) + *tendere* to stretch — more at *FOR-*  
TEND] (15c) 1: to give an omen or anticipatory sign of: BODE 2: IN-

dicare, signify  
portent \pò(ə)r-, tent, -pò(ə)r-\ n [L *portentum*, fr. neut. of *portentus*, pp.  
of *portendere*] (ca. 1563) 1: something that foreshadows a coming  
event: OMEN 2: prophetic indication or significance 3: MARVEL,  
PRODIGY

portentous \pòr-tent-əs, -pòr- adj (ca. 1540) 1: of, relating to, or  
constituting a portent 2: eliciting amazement or wonder: PRODI-  
tentously adv — *portentous-ness* n

porter \pòrt-ər, -pòrt-\ n [ME, fr. OF *portier*, fr. LL *portarius*, fr. L  
porta gate — more at *PORT*] chiefly Brit (13c): a person stationed at a  
door or gate to admit or assist those entering

porter n [ME *portier*, fr. MF *porteur*, fr. LL *portator*, fr. L *portatus*,  
pp. of *portare* to carry — more at *FARE*] (14c) 1: a person who carries  
burdens; *specif*: one employed to carry baggage for patrons at a hotel  
or transportation terminal 2: a parlor-car or sleeping-car attendant  
beer): a heavy dark brown beer brewed from browned or charred malt  
4: a person who does routine cleaning of the premises, furniture, and  
equipment (as in a hospital or office)

porterage \pòrt-ər-, hāj-, -pòrt-\ n (15c): a porter's work; also: the charge for it  
porter-house \pòrt-ər-, hāj-, -pòrt-\ n (1758) 1 *archaic*: a house  
where malt liquor (as porter) is sold 2: a large steak cut from the  
thick end of the short loin to contain a T-shaped bone and a large piece  
of tenderloin — see BEEF illustration

port-folio \pòrt-fò-lē-, ð-, -pòrt-\ n, pl -li-ös [It *portafoglio*, fr. *portare* to  
carry (fr. L) + *foglio* leaf, sheet, fr. L *folium* — more at *BLADE*] (1722)  
1: a hinged cover or flexible case for carrying loose papers, pictures, or  
pamphlets 2 [fr. the use of such a case to carry documents of state]  
the office and functions of a minister of state or member of a cabinet  
3: the securities held by an investor: the commercial paper held by a  
financial house (as a bank) 4: a set of pictures (as drawings or photo-

graphs) either bound in book form or loose in a folder  
port-hole \pòrt-, hól-, -pòrt-\ n [Port] (ca. 1591) 1: an opening (as a  
window) with a cover or closure esp. in the side of a ship or aircraft 2  
a: port through which to shoot 3: *PORT 2*

Portia \pòr-shā-, -pòr-\ n: the heroine in Shakespeare's *The Merchant*  
of Venice

portico \pòrt-i-kò-, -pòrt-\ n, pl -coes or -cos [It, fr. L *porticus* — more  
at *PORT*] (1605): a colonnade or covered ambulatory esp. in classical  
architecture and often at the entrance of a building

portiere \pòrt-, tyè(ə)r-, -pòr-, -ti(ə)r-, -pòrt-è-ə-, -pòrt-\ n [F *portière*, fr.  
OF, fem. of *portier* porter, doorkeeper] (1843): a curtain hanging  
across a doorway

portion \pòr-shān-, -pòr-\ n [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *portio*-, *portio*: akin to L  
part, pars part] (14c) 1: an individual's part or share of something;  
as a: a share received by gift or inheritance b: DOWRY c: a help-  
ing of food 2: an individual's lot, fate, or fortune: one's share of  
good and evil 3: an often limited part set off or abstracted from  
whole (give but that ~ which yourself proposed — Shak.) *syn* see  
PART, FARE

portion vi *portioned*; *portion-ing* \-sh(ə)-njn\ (14c) 1: to divide into  
portions: *DISTRIBUTE 2*: to allot a dowry to: DOWER  
portion-less \-shān-ləs\ adj (1782): having no portion; *esp*: having no  
dowry or inheritance

Portland cement \pòrt-lān(d)-, -pòrt-\ n [Isle of Portland, England; fr.  
its resemblance to a limestone found there] (1824): a hydraulic cement  
made by finely pulverizing the clinker produced by calcining to incipi-  
ent fusion a mixture of clay and limestone or similar materials

partly \pòrt-lē-, -pòrt- adj *part-li-er*; -est [*part*] (ca. 1529) 1: DIGNI-  
tied, *partially* 2: heavy or rotund of body: stout — *port-li-ness* n

port-manteau \pòrt-man-(t)ò-, -pòrt-\ n, pl -teaux \-(t)òz\  
— more at *PORT* (14c) 1: a large traveling bag  
port-manteau adj (1872): combining more than one use or quality

port of call (1884) 1: an intermediate port where ships customarily  
stop for supplies, repairs, or transshipment of cargo 2: a stop in  
landed on an itinerary

port of entry (1840) 1: a place where foreign goods may be cleared  
through a customs house 2: a place where an alien may be permitted  
to enter a country

portraiture \pòr-trā-, -pòr-, -trā\ n [MF, fr. pp. of *portraire*] (1570) 1  
portraiture *esp*: a pictorial representation (as a painting) of a person  
showing his face 2: a sculptured figure: BUST, STATUE 3: a  
pictorial portrayal in words

portrait \pòrt-, -trā\ n (1866): a maker of portraits  
portraiture *esp*: a pictorial representation (as a painting) of a person  
showing his face 2: a sculptured figure: BUST, STATUE 3: a  
pictorial portrayal in words

portraiture \pòr-trā-, -pòr-, -trā\ n [MF, fr. pp. of *portraire*, fr. L  
portraire to draw forth, reveal, expose — more at *PROTRACT*] (14c) 1  
portraiture *esp*: a pictorial representation (as a painting) of a person  
showing his face 2: a sculptured figure: BUST, STATUE 3: a  
pictorial portrayal in words

portraiture \pòr-trā-, -pòr-, -trā\ n (ca. 1847) 1: the act or process or an instance  
of: REPRESENTATION 2: PORTRAIT

por-tress \pòr-trās-, -pòr-\ n (15c): a female porter: as a: a door-  
keeper in a convent or apartment house b: CHARWOMAN

Port Royal-ist \pòrt-ròl-ə-ləst, -pòrt-\ n [F *port-royaliste*, fr. *Port-Royal*,  
a convent near Versailles, France] (ca. 1727): a member or adherent of  
a 17th century French Jansenist lay community noted for its logicians  
and educators

Port Sa-lut \pòr-sal-(yü), -pòr-, -sal-\ n (1902): PORT DU SALUT  
Portuguese \pòr-cho-gez, -pòr-, -ges-\ n, pl Portuguese [Pg *português*,  
adj. & n., fr. *Portugal*] (1615) 1: the Romance language of Portugal  
and Brazil 2 a: a native or inhabitant of Portugal b: one who is of  
Portuguese descent — Portuguese adj

Portuguese man-of-war n (1707): any of several  
large siphonophores (genus *Physalia*) having a  
large bladderlike sac or cyst with a broad crest on  
the upper side by means of which the colony floats  
at the surface of the sea

portu-laca \pòr-cho-lak-ə-, -pòr-\ n [NL, fr. L.  
purslane, fr. *portula*, dim. of *porta* gate; fr. the lid  
of its capsule — more at *PORT*] (1548): any of a  
genus (*Portulaca*) of mainly tropical succulent  
herbs of the purslane family; *esp*: a plant (*P. gran-*  
*diflora*) cultivated for its showy flowers

pos-sa-da \pò-sād-ə\ n [Sp, fr. *posar* to lodge, fr. LL  
*pausare*] (1763): an inn in Spanish-speaking  
countries

pose \pòz\ vb posed; pos-ing [ME *posen*, fr. MF  
*poser*, fr. (assumed) VL *pausare*, fr. LL to stop,  
rest, pause, fr. L *pausa* pause] vi (14c) 1 a: to  
put or set in place b: to place (as a model) in a  
studied attitude 2 a: to put or set forth: OFFER  
(this attitude ~s a threat to our hopes for peace)  
b: to present for attention or consideration (let  
me ~ a question) ~ vi 1: to assume a posture  
or attitude usu. for artistic purposes 2: to affect an attitude or char-  
acter usu. to deceive or impress

pose n (1818) 1: a sustained posture; *esp*: one assumed for artistic  
effect 2: an attitude, role, or characteristic assumed for effect  
*syn* POSE, AIR, AFFECTATION, MANNERISM mean an adopted way of  
syn posing or behaving. POSE implies an attitude deliberately assumed in  
order to impress others (her shyness was just a pose) AIR may suggest  
natural acquirement through environment or way of life, but AIRS  
much given to putting on (airs) AFFECTATION applies to a trick of  
speech or behavior that strikes the observer as insincere (his foreign  
accent is an affectation) MANNERISM applies to an acquired eccentricity  
that has become a habit (gesturing with a cigarette was her most no-  
ticeable mannerism)

pose vi posed; pos-ing [short for earlier *appose*, fr. ME *apposen*, alter. of  
opposed to oppose] (1593): PUZZLE, BAFFLE  
Pos-sei-don \pò-sid-n\ n [L, fr. Gk *Poseidon*]: the Greek god of the sea  
— compare NEPTUNE

pos-er \pò-zər\ n [pose] (1793): a puzzling or baffling question  
poser n [pose] (1888): a person who poses  
pos-er \pò-zər\ n [F, lit., poser, fr. *poser*] (1872): a person who  
pretends to be what he is not: an affected or insincere person

posh \pòsh\ adj [origin unknown] (1918): ELEGANT, FASHIONABLE —  
poshly adv — posh-ness n

pos-it \pòz-ət\ vi pos-it-ed \pòz-ət-əd, -pòz-əd\; pos-it-ing \pòz-ət-  
-t\ [L *positus*, pp.] (1647) 1: to dispose or set firmly: FIX  
2: to assume or affirm the existence of: POSTULATE 3: to propose as an  
explanation: SUGGEST

pos-ition \pò-zish-ən\ n [ME *posycion*, fr. MF *position*, fr. L *positio*-,  
*positio*, fr. *positus*, pp. of *ponere* to lay down, put, place, fr. (assumed)  
OL *ponere*, fr. *po-* away (akin to Gk *apo-*) + L *ponere* to lay, leave —  
more at OF SITE] (14c) 1: an act of placing or arranging; as a: the  
laying down of a proposition or thesis b: an arranging in order 2: a  
point of view adopted and held to (made his ~ on the issue clear) 3  
a: a market commitment in securities or commodities; also: the inven-  
tory of a market trader 4 a: the point or area occupied by a physical  
object (took her ~ at the head of the line) b: a certain arrangement  
of bodily parts (rose to a standing ~) 5 a: relative place, situa-  
tion; or standing (is now in a ~ to make important decisions on his  
behalf) b: social or official rank or status c: an employment for  
which one has been hired: JOB (a ~ with a brokerage firm) d: a  
situation that confers advantage or preference

position vi *pos-itioned*; *pos-ition-ing* \-zish-(ə)-njn\ (1817): to put in  
proper position; also: LOCATE  
pos-ition-al \pò-zish-nəl-, -ən-əl\ adj (1571) 1: of, relating to, or fixed  
by position (~ astronomy) 2: involving little movement (~ warfare)  
3: dependent on position or environment or context (the front  
articulated \k\ in \kē\ key and the back-articulated \k\ in \kü\ cool  
are ~ variants) — *pos-ition-al-ly* \-əl\ adv

positional notation n (1941): a system of expressing numbers in which  
the digits are arranged in succession, the position of each digit has a  
place value, and the number is equal to the sum of the products of each  
digit by its place value

position effect n (1930): genic effect that is due to interaction of adja-  
cent genes and that is modified when the spatial relationships of the  
genes change (as by chromosomal inversion)

position paper n (1949): a detailed report that recommends a course of  
action on a particular issue

pos-itive \pòz-ət-iv, -pòz-iv\ adj [ME, fr. MF *positif*, fr. L *positivus*, fr.  
*positus*] (14c) 1 a: formally laid down or imposed: PRESCRIBED (~  
laws) b: expressed clearly or peremptorily (her answer was a ~ no)  
c: fully assured: CONFIDENT 2 a: of, relating to, or constituting the  
degree of comparison that is expressed in English by the unmodified  
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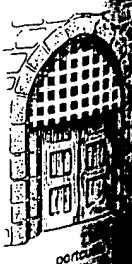
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Portuguese  
man-of-war



port

what may be done or may occur according to nature, custom, or manners 2 a : being something that may or may not occur b : being something that may or may not be true or actual (~ explanation) c : having an indicated potential (a ~ housing site) — pos-si-bly \-ble

**syn** POSSIBLE, PRACTICABLE, FEASIBLE mean capable of being realized. POSSIBLE implies that a thing may certainly exist or occur given the proper conditions; PRACTICABLE implies that something may be easily or readily effected by available means or under current conditions; FEASIBLE applies to what is likely to work or be useful in attaining the end desired.

pos-sum /pʰsám-/ n (1613) : **POSSUM**  
 post' /pʰst-/ [ME, fr. OE. fr. L. *possus*: akin to Gk *pro* before and to Gk  
*histasthai* to stand — more at **FOR**, **STAND**] (bef. 12c) 1: a piece (as of  
 timber or metal) fixed firmly in an upright position: esp. as a stay or  
 support: **PILLAR**, **COLUMN** 2: a pole or stake set up as a mark, or indi-  
 cate something: esp.: a pole or stake marks the starting or finishing point  
 of a horse race 3: a metallic fitting attached to an electrical device (as  
 a storage battery) for convenience in making connections 4: **COAL**  
**BOLT**

**POST**  
**POST** *vt* (1650) **1:** to affix to a usual place (as a wall) for public notice.  
**PLACARD** **2 a:** to publish, announce, or advertise by or as if by use  
of a placard **b:** to denounce by public notice **c:** to enter on a public  
listing **d:** to forbid (property) to trespassers under penalty of legal  
prosecution by notices placed along the boundaries **e:** SCORE

prosecution by notices placed along the boundaries. **b**: a horse kept at a post station. **post n** [MF *poste* relay station, courier, fr. OIt *posta* relay station, f. fem. of *posto*, pp. of *porre* to place. fr. L *ponere* — more at *position*]. (1507) 1 **obs**: COURIER 2 *archaic* **a**: one of a series of stations for keeping horses for relays **b**: the distance between any two such consecutive stations: STAGE 3 chiefly Brit **a**: a nation's organization for handling mail: also the mail handled **b**: a single dispatch of mail (**a**): POST OFFICE **d**: POSTBOX

**post** *v* (1533) **1**: to travel with post-horses **2**: to ride or travel with haste **HURRY** **3**: to rise from the saddle and return to it in rhythm with a horse's trot ~ *v* **1** *archaic*: to dispatch in haste **2**: **MAIL** (a letter) **3** **a**: to transfer or carry from a book of original entry to a ledger **b**: to make transfer entries in **4**: to make familiar with a subject **INFORM** (kept her ~ed on the latest gossip)

**pos** *tr* [MF *pos*te, fr. OIt *posto*, fr. pp. of *porre* to place] (1598) 1 *a* the place at which a soldier is stationed; *esp* : a sentry's beat or station *b* : a station or task to which one is assigned *c* : the place *a* which a body of troops is stationed : CAMP *d* : a local subdivision of a veterans' organization *e* : one of two bugle calls sounded for the British Army at tattoo 2 *a* : an office or position to which a person is appointed *b* : a player position in basketball (the local point) (NBSNG, BSL, SETTLEMENT-*b*)

of the offense; *specif* : PIVOT 2b 3 a : TRADING POST SETTLEMENT  
: a trading station on the floor of a stock exchange  
post *v* (1683) 1 a : to station in a given place (guards were *posted*  
the doors) b : to carry ceremoniously to a position (sing the colonel  
2 chiefly *Brit* : to assign to a unit, position, or location (as in the mili-  
tary or civil service) 3 : to put up (as bond)

**post-** *prefix* [ME, fr. L. *fr. post*; akin to Skt *pāśca* behind; after. Cf. *posterior*].  
 away from — more at OF] 1 **a**: after: subsequent: later (*postnatal*)  
**b**: behind: posterior: following after (*postlude*) (*postconsonantal*)  
**a**: subsequent to: later than (*postoperative*) (*post-Pleistocene*)  
 posterior to (*postorbital*)

post-abor-tion  
post-ac-ci-dent  
post-a-d-o-les-cent  
post-am-pu-a-tion  
post-ar-rest  
post-at-omic  
post-at-tack  
post-au-dio  
post-bac-ca-lau-re-ate  
post-bach-e-lor  
post-base  
post-bib-li-cal  
post-bour-geois  
post-burn  
post-cap-i-tal-ist  
post-chlo-ri-na-tion  
post-Christian  
post-ci-vil-i-za-tion  
post-ci-vil-ized  
post-coi-tal  
post-col-lege  
post-col-le-giate  
post-co-lo-nial  
post-con-cep-tion  
post-con-cert  
post-con-quest  
post-con-so-nan-tal  
post-con-ven-tion  
post-cop-u-la-to-ry  
post-cor-o-nary  
post-coup  
post-cris-is  
post-crys-tal-li-za-tion  
post-Dar-win-ian  
post-dead-line  
post-debate  
post-deb-u-tante  
post-de-liv-ery  
post-de-posi-tion-a-l  
post-de-pres-sion  
post-de-val-u-a-tion  
post-dive  
post-drug  
post-ed-ic-ing  
post-ed-u-ca-tion-al

post-election  
post-em-bry-onal  
post-em-bry-onic  
post-em-bry-ony  
post-enceph-alitic  
post-epi-leptic  
post-er-up-ile  
post-ex-er-cise  
post-ex-per-i-ence  
post-ex-per-i-men-tal  
post-ex-plo-sion  
post-ex-po-sure  
post-fault  
post-flight  
post-fract-ure  
post-freeze  
post-Freud-ian  
post-game  
post-gla-cial  
post-grad-u-ation  
post-har-vest  
post-heat  
post-hem-or-rhagic  
post-hi-ber-na-tion  
post-his-top-ical  
post-hu-man  
post-im-pact  
post-im-per-i-al  
post-in-au-gural  
post-in-cu-na-u-lar  
post-in-de-pen-dence  
post-in-dus-tri-al  
post-in-fec-tion  
post-in-fec-tion  
post-in-oc-u-lar  
post-in-ra-dia-tion  
post-is-chemic  
post-is-o-la-tion  
post-land-ing  
post-lar-val  
post-launch  
post-liber-a-tion  
post-lit-er-ate  
post-mar-i-tal  
post-mas-tec-to-my

[illegible]